

2208 Pleasant Grove Road
Lansing, Michigan 48910-2474

2093 '01 APR 26 P12:58 April 18, 2001

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852
RE: Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1

To Whom This Concerns:

I am writing in regards to Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1. I urge you to grant this petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. During the past four years, I have been actively working to prevent this abuse. I have written, at count, at least nine letters regarding this atrocity to various officials and offices ranging from my state representative and senators to this office. Needless to say, I feel that I am beginning to sound like a broken record, but until something is officially done to prohibit this practice **everywhere**, my job is not done.

There is growing consensus among the USDA, the general public, and even the livestock industry itself that the slaughter and marketing of downed animals are unacceptable. Not only do such animals suffer terrible cruelties—often being dragged by chains or pushed by fork lifts—resulting in severe contusions and broken bones, but there are also health risks to people. Health risks include but are not necessarily limited to bacterial contamination and the contraction of CJD—the human form of Mad Cow Disease.

Finally, there exists no economic hardship, so this cannot be used as an excuse in continuing this practice. Downed animals comprise only a small percentage of animals slaughtered. And industry experts estimate that 90 percent of animals can be prevented from becoming downed in the first place by instituting standards for better care, handling, and transportation.

I include these final words, uttered by the late great Mahatma Gandhi:

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

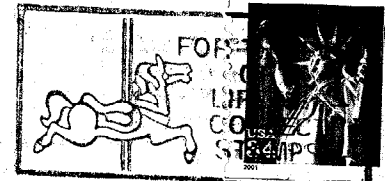
Sincerely,


Lori J. Rumpf

98P-0151

C4704

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